



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Fort Worth District

News Release

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Corps of Engineers announces workshop results regarding off-road vehicle area at Grapevine Lake

FORT WORTH, TX – The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at Elm Fork Project, announced today management recommendations and operational guidelines for the off-road vehicle (ORV) area at Grapevine Lake's Marshall Creek Park. These recommendations are the result of a Corps of Engineers sponsored workshop, attended by representatives of the Corps, several ORV groups, the Grapevine Lake Preservation Association, the city of Flower Mound and the Town of Trophy Club.

Off-road vehicle riding is a legitimate recreational activity enjoyed by many individuals and groups. ORV areas are becoming scarce around the Dallas/Fort Worth area as more and more of the existing areas or facilities close down. The Marshall Creek ORV area is popular and highly utilized by off-road vehicle enthusiasts.

With the purpose of establishing "reasonable operational rules and guidelines for ORV use in Marshall Creek Park consistent with federal state and local laws", the one-day workshop produced operational guidelines for the ORV area that can be used to address conflicts between ORV users and adjacent landowners.

The Corps of Engineers brought the interested parties together when the Town of Trophy Club expressed interest in leasing the park. Although the ORV area is a small portion of the 877-acre park, it sometimes draws the most attention. In 1974, the Corps of Engineers consolidated all ORV users at Grapevine Lake within a previously disturbed area (borrow pit),

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in compliance with executive orders and all federal rules and regulations. Prior to this designation, ORV enthusiasts impacted environmentally-sensitive areas and prime wildlife habitat along the shorelines of Grapevine Lake. As the Metroplex expanded closer to the ORV area, conflicts between different users and adjacent landowners became more pronounced. As a result, the group agreed that the following provisions would benefit all park users:

- a. Separate incompatible recreation uses by removing the peninsula area (sometimes called the Marshall Creek Beach) from ORV use and enclosing the ORV area with pipe rail fencing. The peninsula area will be re-designated for future picnic/camping use, which will also provide noise and visual buffers for adjacent landowners.
- b. Control access to the park in such a way that allows the managing agency to maintain an appropriate carrying capacity, identify/register park users, balance operating hours of users, check equipment and limit trail use based upon trail conditions caused by weather and by fluctuating lake levels.
- c. Create desired user features. Working with volunteer groups, develop trail designations for specific uses (i.e. beginner, intermediate, advanced), and create special features such as (bowls, mud pits, sand runs, etc.).
- d. Monitor use. Perform regular patrols to enforce rules and regulations.

Marshall Creek Park offers a variety of recreational amenities including hiking and equestrian trails, picnic tables, restrooms, a boat ramp and parking areas. The park also contains environmentally-sensitive areas of high value to migratory waterfowl and songbirds.

The Corps will pursue a lease with the Town of Trophy Club for all 877 acres of Marshall Creek Park, to begin on Oct. 1, 2002. User fees collected at the park by a local entity, such as Trophy Club, must be used to benefit the park directly, unlike any fees collected by the Corps, which must be put into a general revenue fund for use nationwide.

For more information, contact Don Harris, Recreation Specialist at the Elm Fork Project, at 972-434-1667.